

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 PM-05 HA-05
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2205
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

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JOINT STATE-AID CABLE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, UNHCR, CG
SUBJECT: SHABAN REFUGEE RELIEF

REF: KINSHASA 9998

1. SUMMARY. REFTTEL REPORTED THAT UNHCR WOULD SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF ZAIRIAN REFUGEES BEFORE THE END OF THE U.S. FISCAL YEAR. SUCH AN OFFICIAL UNCHR REQUEST HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED
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BASED ON BEST AVAILABLE DATA. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS INITIAL OBLIGATION OF DOLS \$5 MILLION TO UNHCR TO HELP MEET THESE REFUGEE NEEDS. END SUMMARY.

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2. UNHCR COST ESTIMATE IS BASED ON MAXIMUM NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO COULD CONCEIVABLY RETURN. IT ASSUMES THAT TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES WILL EQUAL TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES. USING THIS PREMISE, SOME 257,500
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RETURNEES COULD BE EXTENDED: 220,000 FROM ANGOLA, 30,000 FROM UGANDA
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3,000 FROM ZAMBIA, AND 4,500 FROM THE SUDAN.

3. UNHCR ESTIMATES FOUR MONTH COST FOR ABOVE REFUGEES, EXCLUSIVE OF FOOD, WOULD BE DOLS 20.4 MILLION, COVERING MONTHS OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1978 (THRU END OF PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY) AND JANUARY 1979. FOUR-MONTH PERIOD SELECTED BECAUSE IT ASSUMES ALL TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS WILL HAVE BEEN INCURRED DURING THAT PERIOD.

4. UNHCR CANNOT PROVIDE COST ESTIMATE FOR FOODSTUFFS REQUIRED BUT HAS CALCULATED NEEDS AS FOLLOWS: FIRST SIX MONTHS, FULL RATIONS FOR ALL 257,500 REFUGEES; NEXT SIX MONTHS, HALF-RATIONS. TOTAL QUANTITY REQUIRED 31,634 M/TS, BROKEN DOWN AS 27,810 TONS GRAIN, 347.63 TONS SALT, 1,390.5 TONS VEGT MATTER, 1,042.88 TONS OIL, AND 1,042.88 TONS DRIED FISH. IF DRIED FISH UNAVAILABLE, NFDN MAY BE SUBSTITUTED, BUT DOUBLE TONNAGE REQUIRED.

5. COMMENT: UNHCR DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICAN AFFAIRS, ALAIN PETERS, TELLS US THAT UNHCR REGIONAL REP. ANGOLA BELIEVES, BASED ON EARLY SURVEYS, APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF ZAIRIAN REFUGEES
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ANGOLA ARE LIKELY TO RETURN HOME. EMBASSY BELIEVES NUMBER OF ZAIRIAN REFUGEES IN UGANDA IS IN FACT SO SMALL THAT NO UNHCR OPERATION
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WILL EVER BE NECESSARY TO ASSIST THEM TO RETURN TO ZAIRE. THUS, EMBASSY'S OWN ESTIMATE OF MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RETURNING ZAIRIAN REFUGEES
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IS 170,000.

6. RECOMMENDATION: BELIEVE U.S. SHOULD OBLIGATE UP TO DOLS 5 MILLION FY'78 ORM FUNDS (OR OTHER SOURCES, IF AVAILABLE) AS OUR INITIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS UNHCR-SPONSORED FUND FOR SHABA REFUGEES. HOWEVER,
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WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IN ASSUMES WITH UNHCR, U.S. INDICATE THAT OURS IS A MATCHING GRANT, THAT FUNDS WILL BE RELEASED IN TRANCHES, AND THAT
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IN NO CASE WILL OUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT ANY GIVEN TIME EXCEED 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS.
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